

Dear. Mr. Perez,

This email is in response to your questions to obtain a better understanding of Austin Water attached.

On behalf of the City of Austin Water Utility, we have reviewed our records and identified the following information responsive to your questions:

**1. The City has established a water usage goal of 140 gal/capital/day for the year 2020. What is the most recent water usage number and what numbers (population, total or residential usage) were used to calculate the most recent amount? The City website states the 2013 water sales was 41,897,534,000 gals/yr and the City population was 928,026. Using these numbers the gal/capital/day calculates to be 123. Please explain the lower number for 2013 compared to the goal.**

The utility uses the state standard of the total water pumped divided by the total retail and wholesale service area population to calculate GPCD. Pumpage for FY 13 was 45,901,736,000 gallons and the retail and wholesale population was 928,026, which results in a 136 GPCD. The City is below the 2020 goal due to aggressive conservation, watering restrictions, tiered rate structures and behavioral modifications resulting from the lingering multi-year drought.

**2. The City's website mentions a 10% reduction would save 13 million gals/day. Would the 10% reduction achieve the goal for 2020?**

The City exceeded the 2020 goal of 140 GPCD in FY 13 by coming in with a GPCD of 136. Additionally, we are on track to be lower than the 2020 goal of 140 GPCD for the second year in a row in FY 14.

**3. Does the City recover any sewage water for reuse?**

Yes. Austin has a reclaimed water program dating back to 1974. Reclaimed water is recycled from wastewater generated by homes and businesses and treated for virtually any use not requiring higher-quality drinking water, including irrigation, cooling towers, industrial uses, and toilet flushing. The Water Reclamation Initiative, which saves about 1.2 billion gallons of drinking water a year, is an integral component of Austin's water conservation efforts. Most recently, Austin Bergstrom International Airport announced that it would start using reclaimed water for its irrigation system. In FY 2013, approximately 2.6 billion gallons of water were saved through both direct and indirect reuse activities, including on-site irrigation, plant washdown, chlorination/de-chlorination, toilet flushing, industrial, and landscape irrigation.

**4. Does the City use any other water sources other than the Colorado River? If so, what are these sources and the percentage of water that comes from these sources?**

No. However, the City encourages the use of auxiliary waters, such as gray water, reclaimed water, and rainwater, in addition to its strong conservation program, to reduce the use of water coming directly from the Colorado River.

**5. What is the City's position on the use of greywater by the public?**

The City is supportive of graywater use by the public and is actively searching for ways to make its adoption easier from a regulatory and financial perspective while still protective of public health and consistent with state law.

**6. What water sources, other than the ones currently used, is the City considering as a source of water for the future?**

The two recent water source options-related reports to City Council are attached:

- Austin Water Resource Planning Task Force Recommendations Report to City Council (July 2014)
- Austin Water Utility Drought Response Strategies Report to City Council (June 2014)

Please let us know if you need anything further. Thank you.

Suzanne Gilchrist

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